

end and the distal end, the recorder defining a diameter that increases gradually from the juncture point to the mouthpiece, the method comprising the steps of:

determining an operating diameter at a point between the juncture point and the mouthpiece;

procuring a ring having an inner surface of a diameter equal to the operating diameter;

procuring a strap suitable for hanging around the user's neck; and

attaching the strap to the ring.

~~10. The method of claim 9, wherein attaching is by tying a knot.~~

REMARKS

Prior to this Response,

claims 7-8 were pending, both of which were rejected.

In this Response:

claim 8 has been canceled;

claim 7 has been amended, and

new claims 9-10 have been added.

Claims 7, 9-10 are now pending in the present application. Reconsideration is requested. In addition to the above amendments, the Applicant makes the following remarks regarding individual issues:

* The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection:

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent # 5,167,356 to Williams.

It is believed that the rejection has become moot by the present amendment to the claim 7. To the extent it is maintained, the rejection is respectfully traversed. The device of Williams does not use a knot.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection should be withdrawn.

* The 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection:

To the extent that the prior obviousness rejection to claim 8 is extended to amended claim 7, it is respectfully traversed.

The present invention teaches how to assemble a device for suspending a recorder. The device includes a ring of a special geometry, determined by the geometry of the recorder. The claim has been amended to better clarify that.

Williams does not teach how to make the device he teaches. Such has been only inferred in the Office Action.

To make Williams's device, even as was inferred in the rejection, does not anticipate or make obvious the steps of the invention as claimed and amended. Specifically to assemble Williams's device, one would not procure a ring with a cylindrical inner surface as claimed. Instead, one would procure a special, flexible clamping ring, with an elliptical inner surface. The ellipse would have a major axis and a minor axis, of different local diameters (col. 2, l. 61-64). The clamping ring is special, in that its operation depends on squeezing the holder to deform it temporarily to a shape where a token or coin can be placed inside. Upon releasing it, William's device returns to its original shape, whereby it clamps the token or coin.

As for claims 9, 10, the prior art reference does not teach to determine the dimensions of a recorder.

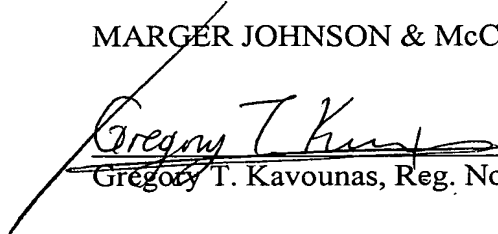
In view of the foregoing, the Applicant requests that that rejection be withdrawn.

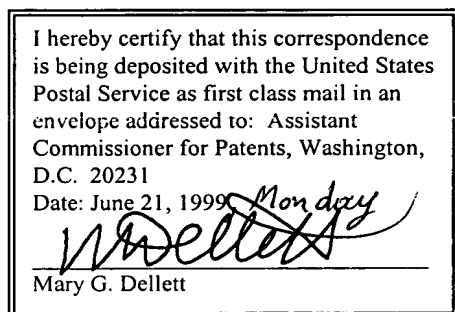
CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of the pending claims must be withdrawn, and that this application is in condition for allowance. Such is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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